Category in Janakpuri exchange is 4·1·94·

(b) No, Sir, All applications registered in Janakpuri exchange upto 4-1-94 save been cleared. Few cases involving are a transfer from other exchanges were pending and these also have been cleared now· Telephones are being provided subject to areas being technically feasible.

(c) All applications upto 4·1·94 have been cleared·

(d) and (e) Not applicable in view of (b) and (c) above.

Irregularities in the bids for cellular phone system

380· SHRI S· S· AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the series of reports which appeared in the Statesman on February 11 and 12, 1995, highlighting the irregularities in deciding the bids for operation of cellular phone system in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have issued any rebuttal to the said reports;

(d) if not, the contents thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of steps taken, if any, to ensure transparency in the process of considering and finalisation of tender bids for cellular phones and other modernisation programmes of DOT in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allegations made in the said reports are not correct·

(c) No, Sir·

(d) Does not arise in view of (C)·

(e) The criteria of evaluation laid down by the Deptt· of Telecom· as examined in detail by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the basis of petitions made by some of the unsuccessful bidders· The Hon'ble Courts had upheld the criteria for evaluation and selection· The orders given by the Courts were duly implemented while awarding the contract.

(f) The parameters for evaluation of tenders have been clearly specified in the bid document.

Villages without post offices

381. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages are there in each State without Post Offices, state-wise,

(b) how many Post Offices were closed down by Government in each state in the past, State-wise;

(c) how many were rural Post Offices among them, State-wise;

(d) by when, each village in the country will have a Post Office;

(e) whether Government would employ jobless educated youth as part-time postal employees in those villages without Post Offices; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The information is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The information is given in the Statement except for the State of J and K which is being collected.

(d) to (f) Post Offices are being gradually opened in rural areas under the plan subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and availability of resouries. No time frame can be given in this regard. The Government also proposes to provide certain basic postal facilities to the people in rural areas through Gram Panchayats which in turn may utilise the services of educated employed for discharging such functions.

Statement

Details of number of villages without post offices and post offices closed down in the past including rural areas

Name of Circle	No. of villages without pots offices	No. of post offices closed down in the past	No. of post offices closed down in rural area
Andhra Pradesh	13714	9	2
Assam	22083	.	.
Bihar	66718	..	..
Delhi	93	1	..
Gujarat	10438	1	..
Haryana	4489	3	..
Himachal Pradesh	16726	..	..
J&K	5041	*	*
Karnataka	27898	..	..
Kerala	nil	4	..
Madhya Pradesh	66142	..	..
Maharashtra	32206	5	1
North East	15319	..	..
Orissa	43486	..	..
Punjab	9451	..	..
Rajasthan	30319	..	..
Tamil Nadu	6581	17	14
Uttar Pradesh	101725	..	..
West Bengal	34156	...	....

*The information is being collected.